Supplies of fertilizers are regularly monitored in accordance with the assessed requirement. As can be seen, that availability of Urea, DAP, MOP and Complex fertilizers is over and above the assessed requirement during current Kharif, 2009.

**India's share of vegetables and fruits in global market**

2271. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India accounts for nearly 11.90 per cent and 10.90 per cent of country's share in the world production of vegetables and fruits, respectively, while its share in the global market in vegetables and fruits stand at 1.70 per cent and 0.50 per cent, respectively;

(b) if so, the reasons for such poor performance, remedial steps taken, outcome thereof;

(c) how much of fruits/vegetables go waste due to lack of proper storage etc.;

(d) whether Indian farmer receives less than a fifth of the high price that the consumer pays and the lion's share is usurped by middlemen; and

(e) if so, how pathetic is plight of farmer?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) India produces 13 percent and 12 percent of world production of vegetables and fruits respectively and its share in the global market is about 1.38 percent in respect of vegetables and fruits. India is the 2nd largest producer of vegetables and fruits and this Ministry aims at doubling the production of fruits and vegetables by 2011-12. For this several schemes have been implemented since 2005-06. There is an increase of 15 percent in vegetable production and 8 percent in fruit production by the end of 2007-08.

(c) About 10-30 percent of fruits and vegetables go waste due to poor handling and lack of post harvest management.

(d) and (e) No survey has yet been conducted on net share received by farmers out of consumers payment and no authentic data is available.

**Fertile land turning barren**

†2272. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agriculture land in Bulandsehar, Meerut and Baghpat districts of Uttar Pradesh is rapidly turning barren;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government proposes to impart knowledge related to land and agriculture to the farmers so that agriculture land could be saved from turning barren in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the productivity of land has been affected in the intensively cultivated districts of western Uttar Pradesh due to unbalanced use of fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter over years.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has implemented an agricultural extension programme to provide training and extension support to the farmers.

The Government is promoting soil test based balanced and judicious use of fertilizers, bio-fertilisers and locally available organic manures to maintain soil health and productivity. A new scheme namely National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSF) has been introduced during 2008-09 to promote soil test based balanced and judicious use of fertilizers, in conjunction with green manures.

Under the National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF), 25% subsidy is provided for establishment of fruit/vegetable waste compost, vermiculture hatcheries and bio-fertilizer production units.

The State Government has also taken steps for improvement of soil health including green manuring, dhaincha seed production programme, demonstration on vermi compost, distribution of bio-fertiliser packets, distribution of soil Health Cards and distribution of gypsum.

**Maharashtra Government's proposal for reimbursement of losses**

2273. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has submitted proposals for reimbursement of losses incurred by the State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation acting as sub-agent of NAFED; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in taking a decision and when Government would be able to settle the issue?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) NAFED is central nodal agency for procurement of cotton under Minimum Support Price (MSP) in addition to CCI. The Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation Limited (MSCCGMFL) is acting as sub agent of NAFED for procurement of cotton in the State of Maharashtra. The Government of India reimburses losses to NAFED incurred on Price Support Scheme (PSS) including cotton. MSCCGMFL is paid actual cost of cotton procured under PSS. Therefore, the question of reimbursement of losses to MSCCGMFL does not arise.